

UPDATE

OF THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION

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March/April 2000

DMHMR Proposes Mental Health Service Improvements

In February, the DMHMR announced plans to enhance the provision of mental health services across the state by increasing housing options.

Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser said there is a "critical need for more appropriate housing for people who have mental illness. This will allow them to transition from institutions and achieve success living in the community."

Rukeyser said that over the past year, a number of patients were identified who could be discharged more rapidly if appropriate placements were available.

She also said that such placements would enable the state and other service providers to better assist people with mental illness with more individualized services appropriate to their needs.

Rukeyser said approximately \$3.4 million targeted for housing options in the proposed DMHMR budget for FY 2000-2001 could reduce the length of time people stay in Tennessee's mental health institutes and lead to a reduction in the overall recidivism rate.

The DMHMR has requested a total of \$6.2 million to improve services in the community for mental health consumers.



Title 33 Revision Commission member Elise McMillan, of Vanderbilt University, and son Will were among the group that presented the recommendations to the governor. Eleven-year-old Will is a 4th grader at H.G. Hill Elementary in Nashville.

Governor Gets Title 33 Recommendations

On January 26, the Title 33 Revision Commission presented a comprehensive set of recommendations for revision of the law to Governor Don Sundquist.

The 26-member Commission, appointed by the governor in 1998, was charged with reviewing Title 33 of the *Tennessee Code Annotated*, the law that governs provision of services to citizens with mental illness and/or mental retardation.

The 200-page document represents the work of over 120 people in study groups and 300 who attended statewide public hearings in addition to commission members.

Commission Chair Evelyn C. Robertson, Jr. said, "We are confident the recommendations represent the most important, appropriate changes possible—responsive to the interests of Tennesseans and supported by constituents statewide. The recommended changes will benefit all of us for years to come."

A summary of the recommendations is printed on page 5. For a look at the entire report, see the DMHMR web site at www.state.tn.us/mental and log on the Title 33 Revision Commission Recommendations.

Williams Heads MH Housing Program

Marie Williams, a licensed clinical social worker with experience in developing community resources for persons with mental illness, was appointed head of a DMHMR program to secure housing alternatives for mental health consumers.



Williams, a former community developer with the Housing and Urban Development, assumed the post February 28.

She works closely with Tennessee's Regional Mental Health Institutes to develop housing alternatives for persons who are ready for release

from the institutes.

Williams holds a bachelor's degree in psychology/philosophy from Austin Peay State University and a master's in social work from the University of Tennessee School of Social Work.

She also participated in the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts.

Past professional experience includes service with the Catholic Charities, Inc., of Memphis — first as therapist with its parish-counseling program, and later, as director of Genesis House, a program for persons with mental illness. She also directed the agency's homeless services program.

"The recommendations to modernize the language of the code will give readers a new understanding of the law. The inclusion of philosophy and principles creates a foundation for strong community-based service systems that will endure the test of time" he added.

The commission met monthly from November 1998 through January 2000. It heard testimony from constituent groups and other state agencies. Research into other states' laws guided formation of some of the recommendations.

"But, most of the recommendations are derived from the expertise and experience of people affected by or directly involved in services and supports for people with mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, mental retardation and developmental disabilities," concluded Robertson.

Update

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State of Tennessee
Don Sundquist, Governor



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Around the State

Washburn Named Clover Bottom Superintendent

Frances Washburn,
interim superintendent at
Clover Bottom
Developmental Center
since September of 1999,
was named that facility's
superintendent in
December.



Prior to her appointment as interim
director, Washburn served as CBDC deputy
superintendent.

Washburn's career with the Division of
Mental Retardation began at Greene Valley
Developmental Center more than 30 years
ago.

She holds a master's of arts degree with
certification in special education and
sociology. She also completed advanced
training in educational administration.

Steve Roth, director of the Middle
Tennessee Office of Regional Services,
announced the appointment.

Park Center Elects Officers; Names Board

Park Center, a Nashville agency that
provides social and vocational services to
adults with mental illness, recently elected
officers and named members to its board of
directors.

Joe Whitehouse of the Rogers Group was
elected president. Deborah Bright Johnson
with BellSouth was named first vice-president.
Frank Andrews of Brookside Properties,
second vice-president and Reginald Groves of
B.T. Services Tennessee is secretary.

The newly elected treasurer, vice-president/
controller is Doug Berry of Gordian Health
Solutions.

New board members include:

- Peter Chapman, executive director,
Mayor's Office of Economic &
Community Development
- Michael Drescher, public relations and
government relations, Ingram Group
- Veronica Johnson, senior vice president,
director of diversity, First American
Center
- Linda Quigley, staff writer, *The
Tennessean*
- Julia Sutherland, nonprofit theater
administrator.
- Tara Symlar, account analyst, Deutsche
Bank
- Terri Medders, manager of Riverboat
Sales for Opryland, also president of the
Nashville chapter of the Hospitality
Sales & Marketing Association
International.

Representative Walley Plans Retirement

The Tennessean reported recently that
Republican Representative Page Walley, the
"driving force behind legislation to improve
care for the mentally ill," is leaving the
legislature at the end of this term.

Walley, a clinical psychologist from West
Tennessee, sponsored the Mental Health Parity
Law, which requires businesses with more than
25 employees to provide mental illness
coverage equal to coverage for medical and
surgical benefits.

Walley represents a district which
encompasses Chester and parts of Fayette and
Hardeman counties. He has served in the
legislature for 10 years. According to reports,
he is retiring to spend more time with his
family.

Walley said he plans to spend this legislative
session working on foster care, juvenile justice
and a rewrite of the mental health laws.

"Kindred" Art Exhibit Schedules Tennessee Tour

"Kindred," a touring exhibit of 36 black and
white portraits of Tennesseans with disabilities,
recently began a statewide tour at the
Clarksville-Montgomery County Museum.

"Kindred" brings to mind family and friends
and neighbors in all their diversity," said
Wanda Willis, executive director of the
Tennessee Developmental Disabilities Council.

"The council and the Kennedy Center
created the exhibit so that Tennesseans could
get to know their neighbors with disabilities in
their everyday life activities," she continued.

The "Kindred" photographic portraits are by
Simon Fulford, acclaimed free-lance
photographer, whose work has appeared in
The New York Times, *The Village Voice*, *We*
magazine and *People with Disabilities and
Families*, a publication of the New Jersey
Developmental Disabilities Council.

A booklet, written by Ned Andrew
Solomon, and containing word portraits of the
16 individuals and families whose portraits are
featured, accompanies the exhibit.

Details of the tour schedule, selected
photographic and word portraits, information
on arts activities, and links to sites on
disabilities and the arts can be found on the
"Kindred" Web site —
www.vanderbilt.edu/kennedy/kindred

The Tennessee Developmental Disabilities
Council is an independent state agency that
works to increase inclusion of Tennesseans
with disabilities in their communities through
promotion of systems change.

For information, contact Wanda Willis at
(615) 532-6615 - TTY (615) 741-4562.

Around the State

Calendar 2000

May 8-12

Tennessee Mental Health Consumers Association Conference
Gatlinburg, TN
423-245-6100
1 (800) 459-2925

June 14-18

NAMI Annual Convention
Town & Country Resort Hotel
500 Circle North
San Diego, CA
(800) 455-8667
(703) 524-7600
www.nami.org

Nominees Accepted for Hampton-Perry Awards

The Dual Diagnosis Recovery Network is accepting nominations for its annual Hampton-Perry Awards.

Two awards are presented. *The Personal Advocacy and Support Award* recognizes an individual's efforts toward personal dual recovery of mental illness and substance abuse. *The Provider Advocacy, Support or Services Award* is given to a professional agency or organization for its efforts to provide dual recovery care.

Melanie Hampton, assistant commissioner for Mental Health Services, said many factors are considered. "We look at advocacy and networking, public education to increase awareness and participation with advisory groups such as state and local government. We also look at service provider education."

Hampton emphasized the network's belief in developing specialized dual recovery services. "These include treatment, education, aftercare, housing and establishing self-help support groups."

The awards will be presented at the 7th Annual Southeastern Conference on Co-Occurring Disorders scheduled at Nashville in October. Winners will receive complimentary VIP registration, hotel reservations, travel arrangements and a commemorative plaque.

Nominations must be submitted by Thursday, June 15, 2000. Send to:

The Dual Diagnosis Recovery Network
1302 Division Street, Suite 101
Nashville, TN 37203
Fax - (615) 256-9005
Email - info@dualdiagnosis.org

Documentation must accompany the nomination form. For a copy of the form and additional information regarding the nomination process, call (615) 742-1000 or (888) 869-9230.

The dual diagnosis recovery program is a joint effort of the DMHMR's Division of Mental Health Services and the Bureau of Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services of the Department of Health, headed by Dr. Stephanie White-Perry.

National Study Says RIP Helps Parents, Kids

A 25-year study on the Regional Intervention Program (RIP), released by the U.S. Department of Education, finds that when parents are trained to emphasize positive behaviors in children, destructive behaviors can be deterred.

Researchers, who began tracking 40 children in the mid '70s, say that parents can learn to interact with their children to stop destructive behavior before lifelong consequences can result.

Matt Timm, director of the Early Childhood Intervention Study for TN Voices for Children and former RIP executive director, reports that "families learn to calm down before punishing misbehavior. They give children reasonable choices instead of commands and remember to praise their children when they are good."

Philip Strain, professor of educational psychology at the University of Colorado at Denver, who led the study, said lack of funds limited the study to 40 participants. Observed in second through eighth grades, the children obeyed their teachers 89% of the time in class, did their work 85% of the time, and seemed little different from other children.

RIP had its beginning in the late '60s when Dr. John Ora, a Nashville clinical psychologist, became concerned about the

service delivery system to children and youth.

Ora later joined Dr. Jay Stack, then director of the Child Study Center at Peabody College, to do research, develop a service delivery system and form important referral relationships with local pediatricians.

In the summer of 1969, a \$29,000 grant was used to establish the program at the Kennedy Center and the program accepted its first families. The following year, RIP was enhanced with a \$94,000 grant from the Bureau of Education for the Handicapped.

In 1972, the program moved from the Kennedy Center to 2400 White Avenue. When Title IV-A funds became available, RIP qualified and received a federal grant of \$174,000 which was administered by the DMHMR. The next year, federal monies dried up, and under the leadership of then commissioner, Dr. Richard Treadway, funding of the program was resumed by the DMHMR with state dollars.

The program is now headquartered at 3411 Belmont, and the DMHMR operates 14 replications across the state. The latest to open is at Plateau Mental Health Center in Cookeville.

RIP serves an estimated 600 Tennessee children and their families each year.

Happenings

- Paul Chisena, vice president for development at Clarksville's Harriett Cohn Mental Health Center, retired effective January 1. Chisena, a clinician for more than 20 years, accepted the post of vice president for Cohn and for Cornerstone MH Services last year. He is credited with pulling Harriett Cohn through rough times in the '80s by merging it with Columbia MHC to form Pinnacle, a precursor to Cornerstone.
- WJHL-TV in Johnson City was recently awarded Frontier Health's 1999 media award for programming to increase awareness of mental health issues. During the year, the station broadcast segments on caring for persons with Alzheimer's disease, innovations in substance abuse treatment and overcoming depression.
- The Mental Health Association of Tennessee moved in December. The new address is 2416 21st Avenue South, Suite 201, Nashville, TN 37212-5318, phone: (615) 242-7122.
- Cornerstone, a historic residence that provides housing to mentally challenged persons, recently received furniture and furnishings courtesy of Nashville's Harley Holt Furniture Company. Cornerstone, funded by TennCare Partners, provides a place to live for eight persons who have been released from hospital care.
- Effective this year, the Pikeville Center that serves persons with developmental disabilities in Bledsoe and Sequatchie counties came under new management and adopted a new name. The Skills Training and Rehabilitation Services (STARS) is now managed by the Southeast Tennessee Resources Agency. Long-term staff member Kim Whited was named director.
- The new address for the Tennessee Mental Health Consumers Association is 116 Dalton Street, Kingsport, TN 37665. The phone numbers are 1 (800) 459-2925 or (423) 245-6100.



News from the MH Planning Council

Diversity Task Force On Target for 1999-2000 Projects

Organized last summer, the DMHMR's Diversity Task Force has commissioned a demographic study detailing the culturally diverse populations across Tennessee and is developing a needs assessment document.

By June 30, 2000, the statewide group plans to have completed a statewide assessment of mental health needs associated with at least five of the culturally diverse populations identified in the demographic study. It also plans on completion of a descriptive analysis of the five identified populations.

The needs assessment will survey the judicial system, emergency clinics, county health departments, homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, community mental health providers, the faith communities and schools. The Council of Community Services in Nashville is conducting this project.

The Diversity Task Force is a subgroup of the Mental Health Planning Council. Its goals for the next fiscal year include creating a training manual on cultural diversity and cultural competence.

Its ongoing goals are to create and maintain a resource center on cultural diversity/cultural competency topics to be located in the Division of Mental Health Services and to education DHMHR staff about cultural diversity and cultural competence.

For information about the work of the Task Force, contact Pat Hatfield at (615) 532-6748, e-mail Phatfield@mail.state.tn.us.

Advocacy/Public Education Committee Plans Conference For Tennessee Clergy

A conference for all clergy including chaplains is being planned by the Advocacy and Public Education Committee of the Mental Health Planning Council.

Tentative arrangements call for four regional meetings during the fall of 2000. Details will be made available in a later issue of *Update* and conference brochures will be widely distributed throughout the state.

Joe Swinford, director of Consumer Affairs and Advocacy, for the DMHMR is the contact person for the conferences. He can be reached at (615) 532-6700 or 1 (800) 560-5767.



Speaking at the February meeting of the Planning Council was International Research Psychiatrist Herbert Meltzer, M.D. Meltzer is a Bixler Professor of Psychiatry and Pharmacology and director of the Division of Psychopharmacology at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. His major research interests are in schizophrenia—psychopharmacologic treatment, neurochemistry, the mechanism of action of antipsychotic drugs, suicide and cognitive studies.



Council President George Haley presented Debi Tate, mental health liaison for the governor the past two years, a plaque thanking her for input to the council and dedication to the field of mental health. Tate recently joined the Child and Family Policy Center at the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies.

**If you are interested in joining your regional planning council,
contact your regional chair or Carol Kardos at
ckardos@mail.state.tn.us (615) 741-3270**



Mental Health Planning Council Officers—(Seated from left) Beverly Lewis, planning coordinator; Verdine Thompson, co-secretary; Melanie Hampton, assistant commissioner, Mental Health Services; Pat Williams, co-secretary; and Betty Duncan, Region V chair. Standing (from left) George Haley, president; Elliott Garrett, Region IV chair; Sita Diehl, vice-president; Ron Harrington, Region I chair; Deborah Farrell, Region VII chair; Sheryl McCormick, Region II chair; Dorothy Stephens, Region III chair; Carol Kardos, mental health planner; and Stanley Lipford, executive committee member-at-large.

Highlights of Title 33 Recommendations

Recommendation for Legislative Changes

System-wide Recommendations

- Codify a philosophy that promotes community-based services to support people with mental illness, serious emotional disturbance and developmental disabilities in flexible, most appropriate, typical settings that enhance each person's dignity and ability to thrive; accountability to the public; and clear responsibilities of the department and of service providers to accomplish these goals.
- Citizen-based planning to advise the department about policy and service system development, maintenance and improvement of the service systems and development of the department's budget request.
- Require the department to set basic quality standards for all services to people with mental illness, emotional disturbance and developmental disabilities.
- Establish a priority for children and their families in the law. Recognize the special status of children with serious emotional disturbance and developmental disabilities.
- Extend licensure requirements to services to people with mental illness, serious emotional disturbance and developmental disabilities in addition to the licensure of facilities.

- Require all licensees to have conflict resolution procedures that correspond to promote cost effective, quick resolution of consumers' service delivery issues.
- Develop interagency agreements to address issues in which multiple agencies have involvement in the provision of services to people with mental illness, serious emotional disturbance and developmental disabilities.
- Adopt civil penalties as one remedy for violations of licensure rules.
- Recognize that the provisions of the recommendations do not create entitlements to services.

Mental Health Services

- New authority for service for people with mental illness who are experiencing severe impairment, a service which permits observation, assessment and treatment under certain conditions for 24 to 72 hours without court proceedings when psychiatric certification is given.
- Requirement for mandatory prescreening should be extended to all hospitalizations for people whose services are publicly funded.
- Extend requirements of treatment review committees to all treatment resources that serve people who are involuntarily committed to services to assist in decision-making about treatment, confidentiality

- and other significant matters.
- Permit transportation of people for involuntary hospitalization by alternative transportation agents working in conjunction with, but other than, sheriffs if the mandatory prescreening agent or certifying physician clears the person for medical and security concerns. This may include families.
- New provisions for mental health consumers to make declarations for mental health treatment to be implemented during periods when they are not otherwise able to state their preferences.

Developmental Disabilities Services

- Expand coverage of Title 33 to people with developmental disabilities one year after enactment of the legislation.
- Provisions for independent review, if necessary, of admissions to publicly funded private developmental centers and other residential services for people with developmental disabilities.
- Authorize mandatory community-based services for people who are charged with a crime, incompetent to stand trial and not committable to an institution.
- Permit decisions about medical and dental services to be made by surrogates for adults with developmental disabilities due to mental impairment.

Narrative Recommendations

Recommendations which Span Laws in Addition to Title 33

- Include laws about Alcohol and Substance Abuse in Title 33. Include representation from the Title 33 Revision Commission in the Task Force which is to review Alcohol & Substance Abuse services policy and administration.
- Examine the need for surrogate decision-makers for other vulnerable people. Develop a comprehensive law about surrogate decision-making.
- Establish uniform confidentiality requirements and disclosure provisions for all human service professionals.
- Exclude mental health residential treatment facilities from the Certificate of Need law.
- Review and update or remove reimbursement schedules in TCA 8-21-901 relative to the amount sheriffs are paid for

transporting people for involuntary hospitalization.

- Change the name of the Department in Title 4 and restate its purposes in concert with the Commission's recommendations.
- Amend Title 34 to reference Declarations for Mental Health Treatment.

Recommendations Directed to the Administration

- Re-align access to mental health community support services.
- Plan for increased portion of mental retardation resources for people on waiting lists.
- Prioritize coordination of services for children, youth and their families. Promote planning and policy development for all Tennessee children.
- Publish practical directories of Tennessee laws collated by subject matter.

- Minimize duplicative monitoring of service providers funded by multiple state agencies.

Recommendations Directed to the DMHMR

- Require the DMHMR to provide and arrange for training for law enforcement in mental health crisis management and transportation for individuals with mental illness.
- Focus on assisting people in transition from age-based services to the next age-appropriate services.
- Establish inter-divisional agreements to assure that people who have co-occurring mental health and developmental disabilities are serviced appropriately.
- Promote typical housing options for consumers.
- Promulgate rules to support Title 33.

Rukeyser Discusses Partners/ Title 33 at MHA Meeting

In February, Department of Mental Health & Mental Retardation Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser discussed the relationship between DMHMR and TennCare Partners, the program established to serve the needs of people who have mental illness and substance abuse.

The commissioner delivered the keynote address at as part of a Healthcare Reform Advocacy Training program scheduled at Nashville's Union Station.

The Mental Health Association of Tennessee sponsored the program, in conjunction with its parent organization, the National Mental Health Association.

Rukeyser also participated in a discussion on the work of the Title 33 Commission, the group appointed last year by the governor to review Title 33 of the *Tennessee Code Annotated*, the laws that govern the provision of services to citizens who have mental illness and mental retardation.

A spokesperson for the Mental Health

Association said the focus of the conference was to address consumer rights and managed care. About 50 people from across the state attended.



Commissioner Rukeyser talks with Ben Harrington, executive director of the Mental Health Association of Greater Knoxville.

May is Mental Health Month
Sponsored by the National Mental
Health Association, 1021 Prince
Street, Alexandria VA 22314-2971
Phone (703) 684-7722

Conference on MH Statistic Scheduled in Washington

The Center for Mental Health Services and the Mental Health Statistics Improvement Program will present *Back to the Future; Out of the Past*, May 30-June 2 at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C.

A focus of the agencies' 2000 National Conference on MH Statistics, presentations will be on recent changes in policy, practice and technology.

For information: Patricia Smith, 2000 Conference; MasiMax Resources, Inc.—
1375 Piccard Drive - Suite 360; Rockville,
MD 20850 - (240) 632-0610.

Governor Appoints Commission to Study TennCare's Future

Governor Don Sundquist recently appointed a 17-member study group to consider changes to TennCare, the state's managed care program for people who are Medicaid-eligible, uninsured or uninsurable.

The governor charged *The Commission on the Future of TennCare* to assess the program from the perspective of cost, efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery and benefit to the people of Tennessee.

He asked that the group examine the state's options with respect to continuing the TennCare waiver or adopting an alternate plan.

The group will seek broad-based comment from the public regarding future directions the state will take in publicly funded health care.

Co-chaired by Tennessee Comptroller Emeritus William Snodgrass and Dr. Doug

Smith, chairman of Passport Health Communications in Brentwood, Tennessee, the commission will report its findings to the governor in September. Other commission members include;

- Former governor, Ned McWherter, Dresden
- Clayton McWhorter, Chairman of Clayton Associates, Nashville
- Larry Brown, senior vice president of FedEx in Memphis
- Ron Franks, M.D., dean of medicine, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City
- Carol Mutter, adjunct professor, University of Tennessee School of Law, Knoxville
- Tommy Frist, Jr., M.D., chairman and CEO, Columbia/HCA, Nashville
- Claude Ramsey, Hamilton County executive, Chattanooga

- Lonnie Roberts, CEO, Tennessee Rural Health, Columbia
- Clay Good, pharmacist, Clinton
- Mary Rolando, executive director, Title 33 Revision Commission, DMHMR, Nashville
- Cato Johnson, senior vice president, Methodist Health Care, Memphis
- Mary Martin Schaffner, attorney, Howell & Fisher, Nashville
- Tony Spezia, president and CEO, PHP Companies, Inc., Knoxville
- Hershel P. Wall, M.D., professor of pediatrics, associate dean, admission & student affairs, director of underserved area programs, University of Memphis
- Colleen Conway Welch, Ph.D., dean, Vanderbilt School of Nursing, Nashville



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